



Berean Watchmen
Ministries

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The Watchmen

THE VOICE FROM THE WALL

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The Season Upon Us

Well it's hard to believe but the year 2007 is soon coming to a close.

We here at Berean Watchmen have had a busy and blessed year with conferences, news tracking, articles and our online forum board fellowship. As we do these things we realize more and more just how timely the message of Christ's promised return is in these ever darkening times.

We have been witness to sad stories about once faithful evangelical churches and preachers succumbing to the distorted doctrine of the emerging church movement.

We have been witness to disturbing stories of society's downturn from a baseline of good moral standards to that of a sinful society, trying their best to ignore God and bring happiness to themselves in a selfish and fruitless quest.

We have seen the rise of more and more stories, documentaries and reports that attempt to undermine the scriptures and convince the world that the bible is nothing but fairy tales. Each year we get a new attack on the scriptures. Things like the 'Da Vinci Code', the 'Gospel of Judas', and more recently the 'Lost Tomb of Jesus'. All these attempts by satan to convince the world that God does not exist, that Jesus Christ was just a man, and that we shouldn't believe any of it. Our answer? - Hogwash.

All this should do is convince us more fully that the bible is true. For the scriptures that clearly tell us that in *'latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils'* (1 Ti 4:1)

As I take God at his word, I take none of these attacks on our faith as a surprise.

It is left to us who still hold to the truth and proclaim the true gospel of Christ to hold our ground and stand fast equipped with the whole armor of God.

I am reminded of a song by the Casting Crowns titled *What if His People Prayed*. The opening lyrics of the song are:

*What if the armies of the Lord
Picked up and dusted off their swords
Vowed to set the captive free
And not let satan have one more*

*What if the Church, for heaven's sake
Finally stepped up to the plate
Took a stand upon God's promise
And stormed hell's rusty gates*

What a timely message.

Have we not forgotten how to wield the sword of truth, the word of God? We seem to have found other pursuits to keep us too busy to spend time in the word of God. Isn't it about time we dusted off our swords. That we vowed to set the captives free and proclaim the gospel to our neighbors? Co-Workers? Friends? And families?

Are we afraid? Have we lost our nerve? Where is our Confidence?

" And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." - 1 John 2:28

Nothing has the ability in encouraging a Christian more than to recognize that God fulfills his promises. Christians can remain in, and gain confidence through the witness of fulfilled prophecies in

The Season Upon Us <Continued from Page 1>

scripture. We can know that God's Word is faithful and True no matter how troublesome life becomes. God's written word (through prophecy) tells us that we can confidently stand on the blessed hope of a coming King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Titus 2:13); That despite all that seems to be going wrong in the world, in the end, Christ promised to come again and restore heaven on earth.

Countless passages of scripture have already been fulfilled throughout the ages, and some even in the very days in which we live. The event of Israel's re-gathering and national restoration in 1948 is a 'case in point' and of serious biblical significance. To be able to watch and recognize fulfillment of prophecy in the current time revitalizes faith and encourages us to hold the course until the Lord Returns. (Rev 3:11)

The historical evidence of fulfilled scriptures gives us confidence in our bibles. Contrary to what we are being told in the 'Da Vinci Code', the 'Gospel of

Judas', and most recently the 'Lost Tomb of Jesus'; God's Word can truly be trusted, relied upon and confidently believed.

As Christians we need to be confident in the promises and word of God. 1Peter 3:15 tells us we are *'to be ready always to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope in you'*. Bible Prophecy, sound apologetics and exegetical study of the scriptures is how we not only gain that confidence, but also discernment of truth and error. If we can wield the sword of truth - the word of God - with authority, knowledge and confidence, we then become a very effective witness in what seems to be ever darkening times.

As the holiday season comes upon us, may we remember the charge before us all:

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. - 2Ti 4:2

-- J.R. Hall



Behold he comes!

Why Is Prophecy Seldom Taught or Studied – Part I

Introduction

It is often the case where modern day pastors and teachers will skip the subject of bible prophecy due to the fact that it can be controversial. I have heard sermons where a few sparse verses of Revelation are used in sermons. But never a full sermon dedicated to the events that await us in the real of futurist prophecy. What then perhaps are the reasons that people choose not to look more closely at the subject of biblical prophecy as it pertains to future things to come? Why is it that Christian teachers and pastors avoid a section of the word of God that not only encourages Christians to live Holy lives, but also fulfills Christ's words of *"watch, and be ready"*? Well I believe there are three main reasons:

1. Too Hard to Understand:

Many people view prophecy as something that is too hard to understand. As prophecy does not really effect or have any real direct correlation to one's salvation and may not immediately seem to impact a person's Christian living, many may ignore those passages of prophecy simply to avoid the 'apparent' difficulty in comprehension. The bible is a fascinating book. I admit there are symbolisms, but when the bible is digested as a complete volume, we find that these seemingly hard to understand concepts are explained elsewhere in the scriptures.

2. Publicized Faulty Interpretations:

Perhaps our memories of erroneous past so-called prophets and prophecy

"..when the bible is digested as a complete volume, we find that these seemingly hard to understand concepts are explained elsewhere in the scriptures."

Why Is Prophecy Seldom Taught or Studied - Part I <Continued from Page 2>

experts are to blame. These past date setters, or their previous attempts at Identifying the Antichrist and/or reckless speculation of end times events, may be to blame for our lack of interest in the future events. It is interesting to note that many of the cult groups that have formed over the last century are usually started by someone who claims to be a prophet of God, and as history has shown far too often, the end results of such cult movements are usually tragic.

On our online forum board, we often have someone trying to pinpoint the identify of the Antichrist, or provide some 'revelation' through their studies when the rapture is to occur.

The media crucifies these date setters. Through this public exposure, it provides the world with a false sense of the fact that Christians don't really seem to know what is going to happen. Through these few 'rash' and impatient few, the rest of us who earnestly study eschatology are given a bad name. In the eyes of the public, we perhaps are the next 'nutcase' they'll see next week on the evening news proclaiming doom and gloom and that the 'end is near'.

3. Too Controversial:

Compounding these two items is the frustration many people feel when wading through all the different views of the end times. There are so many different views as to how the end times are to be played out that the average Christian becomes overwhelmed and unwilling to take the plunge into the information at hand. After all... if the experts can't agree, what chance does someone like you or I have?

Throughout our website and materials you will find articles discussing some of these end times ideas, and their correlation with relevant verses in the bible. Together using only our bibles, discussion and guidance from the Holy Spirit, perhaps we can make 'heads or tails' of end times prophecies.

We need not further expound on points 2 and 3 above, as they are relatively self explanatory.

For the purpose of the rest of this article, I wish to concentrate on the first item in the above list. The first item is something of an 'old wives tale' that I think we should dismiss here and now.

Is Prophecy (or the bible for that matter) Too Hard to Understand?

Many people have become either discouraged or disinterested in studying the Bible because they have been told *"there are so many different interpretations of the Bible that no one can possibly understand it."* But the truth of the matter is there is only one true interpretation of the Bible and anyone can understand it. The purpose of this article is not to teach a particular point of view, but to give some guidelines on how to arrive at the correct interpretation.

Well what does the bible tell us about our ability to learn from and understand the Word of God?

"But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him." - 1 John 2:26-27

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come". - John 16:13

"But there is a God in Heaven who reveals secrets and makes known ... what shall be in the latter days." - Daniel 2:28

God promises that he will make His ways known to those that seek. Christians are promised understanding as they read the word, because the Holy Spirit ministers directly to those who earnestly seek God's truth. We'll talk more on this later.



"God promises that he will make His ways known to those that seek."

Why Is Prophecy Seldom Taught or Studied – Part I <Continued>

Another interesting verse worth discussing is this one:

But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased” - Daniel 12:4

This verse has prophetic significance to us. It suggests that as the time of the end approaches, the 'secrets' or those things that were unknown would become known by those who seek.

Should we not study the word then because we think it is too hard to understand? No. Rather we should pray for spiritual guidance and read the Word of God and let Him reveal Himself to us as He Himself Promised.

The same goes for Prophecy. It can be found that prophecy makes up approximately 27% of the bible, so with that in mind, let's look again at 2 Peter 3:16

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: - 2 Peter 3:16

The verse above states “All Scripture.” God must also have been talking of

prophecy as being part of that scripture; Therefore we can clearly state that “*The study of prophecy is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction and for instruction in righteousness.*”

Christ also gave the command to teach 'ALL' things (all includes prophecy) as found in Matthew 28:20.

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen”.- Matthew 28:20

That should remove any hesitation we have in attempting to read it; now what about some of the interpretation difficulties we might have with the scriptures?

In my own personal study I have found a few key study guides and methods that have proven to be invaluable aids when reading and studying the scriptures.

Unfortunately our discussion will have to wait until next issue when we continue our talk on ‘**Why Is Prophecy Seldom Taught or Studied’ – Part II**

Maranatha and God Bless,

- J.R. Hall

Merry Christmas

&



Happy New Year!!

From all of us at

Berean Watchmen Ministries



News Bites

Some Christian Pastors embrace Scientology

By Diana Miller and Gary Tuchman, CNN
Nov 1, 2007

TAMPA, Florida (CNN) -- Some Christian congregations, particularly in lower income, urban areas, are turning to an unlikely source for help -- the Church of Scientology.

Scientologists do not worship God, much less Jesus Christ. The church has seen plenty of controversy and critics consider it a cult. So why are observant Christians embracing some of its teachings?

Two pastors who spoke recently with CNN explained that when it comes to religion, they still preach the core beliefs of Christianity. But when it

comes to practicing what they preach in a modern world, borrowing from Scientology helps.

The Rev. Charles Kennedy, of the Glorious Church of God in Christ, a Pentecostal church in Tampa, Florida, and the Rev. James McLaughlin, of the Wayman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas, are among the theological hybrids.

They say they are not scared off by programs with ties to a church that critics say has aggressive recruiting, secretive ways and rigid theology. As men of God rooted in Christian values, they do not see Scientology as a threat to their faith, but

rather as a tool to augment it.

... continued.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/US/10/31/christian.scientology/index.html?ref=mpstoryview>

Editor's Note: *It's a hard thing for us to imagine that evangelical pastors could ever accept scientology as an augmentation to Christianity. It clearly stands in stark contrast to it at the very nature. The man who invented Scientology is quoted as saying, "Christ died for his own sins." Can there be any doubt that we are a generation witness to the prophecy of 1 Timothy 4:1.*



"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils".
- 1 Timothy 4:1

7th-grader's death sparks parents' superbug concerns

NEW YORK (CNN) -- The death of a 12-year-old student in Brooklyn from the staph infection MRSA has prompted fear among parents and students throughout the New York City school system, forcing officials to respond.

Omar Rivera, a seventh-grader at Intermediate School 211, died October 14 from the infection, according to the New York City school superintendent, but investigators were unable to confirm where he contracted the infection.

MRSA is short for methicillin-resistant

Staphylococcus aureus, and is responsible for more deaths in the United States each year than AIDS, according to new data.

"There's often no way to know how an individual person got the infection," said New York City Health Commissioner Tom Frieden. "An infection in a child like this is extremely rare. Fatal infections in children is in the order of 1 in a million. It's a terrible tragedy and our hearts go out to the family."

The Office of School Health sent letters to parents Thursday,

notifying them of Rivera's death. Despite assurances from health officials that Rivera's death was an isolated incident, several parents... continued.

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2007/HEALTH/10/26/bacteria.staph/index.html>

Editor's Note: *The bible tells us that pestilence will increase as we approach the end. (Luke 21:10) Even the 4th horseman of the apocalypse himself is typified as pestilence, disease and death.*

"...and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven."
-- Luke 21:11



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*"...Now these [bereans] were more noble... in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so."
- Acts 17:10-11*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.bereanwatchmen.com

Letter's from our Readers

Q: How can you say that the return/rapture of Christ is imminent if the bible says that that gospel must be preached in all the nations before the end will come?
- *Anonymous*

A: I believe you are referring to these verses:

"And the gospel must first be proclaimed to all nations." - Mar 13:10

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be proclaimed in all the world as a witness to all nations. And then the end shall come." - Mat 24:14

First it is important to recognize that the word 'nations' in these passages is translated from the greek word 'ethnos' which is where we get our word ethnic from. What these passages are then saying is that the gospel must be preached to all ethnic groups and then the end will come.

What we also have to consider is the context from

where these passages are taken.

In both cases they refer to the end coming, but in the context of the passages, they are referring to the second coming, or 2nd Advent of Christ, not the imminent appearing of Christ at the rapture for His Church.

This understanding aligns well with the evidence that the gospel will be preached throughout the earth during the Tribulation period. Revelation documents three distinct evangelistic attempts of God ensuring the Gospel is preached. Firstly we have the 144, 000 witnesses of Revelation 7. Secondly the ministry of the two witnesses dressed in sackcloth in Rev 11:3 and finally we have an angel proclaiming the gospel:

"And I saw another angel flying in mid-heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those dwelling on the earth, even to every nation and kindred and tongue and people," Rev

14:6

Notice the words at the end of this passage where it is clear that the gospel is preached to 'every nation, kindred and tongue and people'. Herein lays the fulfillment of the Mark 13:10 and Matthew 24:14 verses.

Imminency of the rapture is documented for us in: 1 Cor 1:7; 16:22, Phil 3:20; 4:5; 1 Thess 1:9-10; Titus 2:13; Heb 9:28 and Jude 1:21. It is also important to note that the early Church had a special greeting to one another: 'Maranatha' (1 Cor 16:22). This word means simply "Our Lord Come". It would be an ill placed gesture if they didn't believe that the coming of the Lord as promised in 1 Cor. 15:51-53 was not imminent.

God Bless,

-- BWM

Upcoming Events...

PreTrib Study Group

2007: J.R. Lawendowski and J.R. Hall will again be attending the PreTrib Research Center's annual meeting in Dallas, TX on December 10th, 11th and 12th of 2007. For information on the event go to [Http://www.pre-trib.org](http://www.pre-trib.org)

14th Annual Tulsa Prophecy Conference: Join J.R. Hall as he has the privilege in speaking at the 14th annual Tulsa

Prophecy Conference on April 2-4th, 2007 in Tulsa, OK. For more info, please go to:

<http://www.prophecywatch.com/Confer07.htm>

Women's Journey of Faith – Sharing the Journey Seminar:

J.R. Hall will be presenting a breakout session on 'Understanding Biblical Prophecy' on March 1st, 2008 at this event in Saskatoon, SK, Canada. For More information please go to:

<http://www.wjof.com/sharimgthejourney.htm>

Overheard

"About the time of the end, a body of men will be raised up who will turn their attention to the prophecies of the Bible and insist on their literal interpretation in the midst of much clamor and opposition."

– Sir Isaac Newton

Resources:

Orders:

GENERAL MINISTRY MEDIA

QTY:	Description	Price	Totals
___ X	DVD Video: Why Study Prophecy – J.R. Hall	\$15.00	= ___
___ X	DVD Video: Babylon, Past & Present – J.R. Lawendowski.....	\$15.00	= ___
___ X	DVD Video: Signs of the Times – J.R. Hall	\$15.00	= ___
___ X	CD Audio: Why Study Prophecy – J.R. Hall	\$ 6.00	= ___
___ X	CD Audio: Babylon, Past & Present – J.R. Lawendowski.....	\$ 6.00	= ___
___ X	CD Audio: Signs of the Times – J.R. Hall	\$ 6.00	= ___

CONFERENCE MEDIA

SASKATOON 2006 ‘A SURVEY OF PROPHECY’ CONFERENCE

___ X	Complete Saskatoon Prophecy Conference 2006 , two DVD Volume Set	\$99.99	= ___
	All 17 sessions from the 2006 conference. Each session approx 50 mins. <i>Sessions include: Why Study Prophecy, The Essentials of the Rapture, Living on the Edge of Eternity, The Death of Discernment, The Charting of End Times Events, Rome and the European Union, Babylon, Past & Present, Signs of the Times, The Kings of the European Union, Israel, Super Sign, The Coming Mark of the Beast, Israel, Islam and the Vatican, Question & Answer Night, Current Stage Setting for the book of Revelation, The Coming One World Religion, When a Christian Dies and The Bible Driven Church.</i>		
___ X	Individual DVD Videos from the conference (can be ordered at \$11/ea).....	\$11.00	= ___
	please indicate which title(s) you would like in your individual order.		
___ X	AUDIO: Complete 17 CD set (Standard Audio)	\$49.99	= ___
___ X	MP3 AUDIO: Complete 17 session AUDIO (MP3) on 3 disks.	\$25.00	= ___

SASKATOON 2007 ‘A SURVEY OF PROPHECY’ CONFERENCE



NOTE: *We strive to provide the best quality that we can in our media from the conference events. Unfortunately the audio for the 2007 event was not as good as it was in previous years. The conference media is acceptable for listening and viewing, but we’re just advising that the audio quality is slightly distorted at times. It is for this reason that the price is slightly lower for the media than it was in previous years. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope that you can understand the difficulties surrounding live event recordings.*

___ X	Complete Saskatoon Prophecy Conference 2007 , two DVD Volume Set	\$79.99	= ___
	All 17 sessions from the 2006 conference. Each session approx 50 mins. <i>Sessions include:</i> Gary Fisher: <i>The End Times According to Ezekiel, Update on Current Events, Four Things out of Place</i> Phillip Goodman: <i>The Beast from the East, Genesis as Written: 6 days, The King of Kings</i> J.R. Lawendowski: <i>The Restrainer, Events Surrounding the 2nd Coming, The Law and Prophets – WDJD.</i> J.R. Hall: <i>In the Twinkling of an Eye, Daniel’s 70 Weeks, Exposing False Doctrine</i> Dr. Joseph Chambers: <i>Charismania: The False anointing, False Prophets & End Time Deception</i> Roger Oakland: <i>Searching for the Truth on Origins, Faith Undone – The Emerging Church</i> Question & Answer Night: <i>Conference questions answered by all speakers in a forum.</i>		
___ X	Individual DVD Videos from the conference (can be ordered at \$11/ea).....	\$10.00	= ___
	Please indicate which title(s) you would like in your individual order.		
___ X	AUDIO: Complete 17 CD set (Standard Audio)	\$45.00	= ___
___ X	MP3 AUDIO: Complete 17 session AUDIO (MP3) on 3 disks.	\$20.00	= ___

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